



EMERGENCY NURSES
ASSOCIATION

Maryland State Council
Safe Practice Safe Care

To: Maryland Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee 2021
House Office Building, Room 101
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Senator William C. Smith Jr., *Chair*
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, *Vice Chair*
Senator Jack Bailey
Senator Jill P. Carter
Senator Robert Cassilly
Senator Shelly Hettleman
Senator Michael Hough
Senator Michael A. Jackson
Senator Susan Lee
Senator Charles E. Sydnor, III
Senator Chris West

From: Maryland State Council of the Emergency Nurses Association

Date: January 24, 2020

Re: Maryland Emergency Nurses Association requests a FAVORABLE vote on
Senate Bill 105 - Peace Orders – Workplace Violence

Good day Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the
Maryland Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee,

My name is Lisa Tenney, and I am testifying on behalf of The Maryland State
Council of the Emergency Nurses Association. We would like to thank Senator
Sydnor for sponsoring SB 105 – Peace Orders- Workplace Violence again this year.
This is a powerful piece of legislation for emergency nurses that will allow an
employer to obtain a peace order to protect employees when violence occurs in
the workplace. We especially like this bill because:

- It requires the employer to notify the employee before filing a peace order
- It provides immunity for the employer for filing the peace order

- It prohibits an employer from retaliating against an employee who was involved in the reason for the peace order
- It does not mandate that the employer file a peace order

Imagine that I am on duty in the Emergency Room (ER) and a patient does not like the fact that I am discharging her with a prescription for a non-opioid drug, instead of a prescription for an opioid drug she came to the ER to get.

Imagine that as I try to give her discharge instructions, she unexpectedly attacks me and punches me in the face and head, resulting in an eye injury, and a severe concussion. Imagine that while she is assaulting me, she screams, ***“You better watch out you (expletive), because I’m gonna kill you. And make sure that (expletive) doctor knows that I’m coming after him, too!”***

This happened to a Maryland Emergency Nurse this past year. Imagine the solace it would have given her and her colleagues if their employer could have filed a peace order against this patient to protect them and their innocent patients from possible further violence from this patient. Right now, employers do not have this tool in their workplace violence prevention toolbox. Your SB 105 favorable vote will put it there.

Sincerely,

Lisa Tenney

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